



**U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SENTENCING IN METHAMPHETAMINE CASE

Macon: Maxwell Wood, the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, announced that on Thursday, June 9, 2005, DONALD SHANE LUDINGTON was sentenced before the Honorable Wilbur D. Owens, Jr., Judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia.

On February 1, 2005, LUDINGTON entered his guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to steal government property, and to transport stolen vehicles in interstate commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

On May 26, 2004, conspirators unlawfully took a 1998 Toyota SR5 truck from a used car lot in Crawfordville, Florida. LUDINGTON abandoned the truck in Ben Hill County, Georgia. The truck was found on July 6, 2004.

On August 17, 2004, LUDINGTON stole one 1990 Ford Model F-350 Dually truck, located in Fitzgerald, Georgia. Seven days later on August 24th, the defendant abandoned the 1990 Ford truck on Malvern Hill Road, Macon, Georgia.

LUDINGTON then traveled from Malvern Hill Road to the U.S. Department of Agriculture research facility located at 21 Dunbar Road, Byron, Georgia. He entered the fenced research facility. While inside the government research facility, LUDINGTON took two government vehicles, a 1988 Yamaha four-wheeler and one 1997 Ford Model F-150 truck. LUDINGTON exited the research facility by driving the 1997 Ford through the fence.

Subsequently on the evening of August 26/27, 2004, LUDINGTON and another person entered a commercial facility owned by Royster-Clark, Inc., located in Tifton, Georgia. There the pair stole a quantity of anhydrous ammonia. The two, then drove to Nashville, Georgia. LUDINGTON was arrested on August 27, 2004 in Nashville, Georgia after manufacturing a quantity of methamphetamine.

LUDINGTON received a sentence forty-eight (48) months imprisonment, to be followed

by three (3) years supervised release. There is no parole in the Federal system. In addition, LUDINGTON was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$12,404.20.

On April 26, 2005, LUDINGTON's co-defendant, Jonathan Eulan Watson, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit theft from interstate shipment and theft of anhydrous ammonia. Watson is awaiting sentence.

The investigation was conducted by the Ben Hill County Sheriff's Office, Berrien County Sheriff's Office, Tift County Sheriff's Office and the United States Department of Agriculture - Office of Inspector General. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Harry J. Fox, Jr.

Any questions concerning this matter should be addressed to Sue McKinney, Public Affairs Specialist, United States Attorney's Office, at (478) 621-2602.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Maxwell Wood by G. F. Peterson, Jr.

**MAXWELL WOOD
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**